

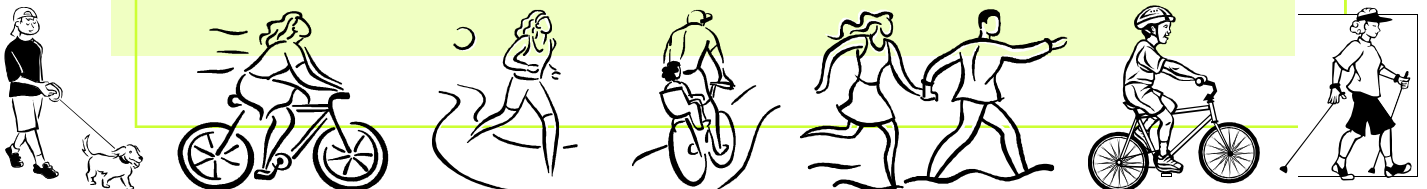


# City of Elgin Alternative Transportation and Trails Master Plan

**Appendix D of the City of Elgin Parks, Recreation and  
Open Space Master Plan 2011**

## Index

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| <u>Vision Goals and Objectives</u>                           | 3     |
| <u>The Benefits of Alternative Transportation and Trails</u> | 4     |
| <u>Evaluation of Existing Conditions</u>                     | 5-9   |
| <u>Design Guidelines</u>                                     | 10    |
| <u>Description of Proposed Alternative Transportation</u>    | 11-12 |
| <u>System (Trails and Greenways)</u>                         |       |
| <u>Description of Proposed Alternative Transportation</u>    | 13-14 |
| <u>System (Routes and On Street Linkages)</u>                |       |
| <u>Funding Sources</u>                                       | 15-16 |
| <u>Operations and Management</u>                             | 17    |
| <u>Safety Considerations and Adopt-A-Trail Program</u>       | 18    |
| <u>Appendix A: Alternative Transportation and Trails Map</u> | 19    |
| <u>Appendix B: References</u>                                | 20    |



## Vision Goals and Objectives

### Vision

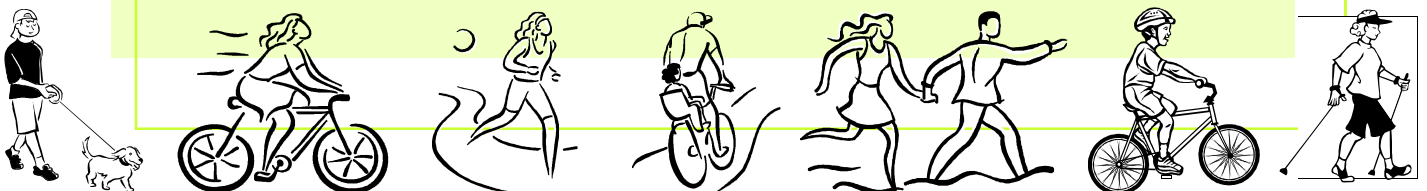
The Alternative Transportation and Trails Committee and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board created this plan as a guideline for the development of a system that will increase accessibility and connectivity, as well as increase active recreation options for the Elgin community and its visitors.

### Goals

Provide for Elgin's public interest, safety and general welfare by offering and encouraging the use of a well planned, safe, and efficient alternative transportation and trails system for pedestrians and bicyclists connecting neighborhoods, parks, schools, businesses and other local points of interest.

### Objectives

- Promote healthy lifestyles by giving people more options to walk, bike or run for recreation or destination travel.
- Provide safe routes for Elgin's youth to use to their schools, parks and other local destinations.
- Increase the value of nearby residential, commercial and industrial properties through trail development.
- Encourage the formation of public/private partnerships to help manage and fund the trail system.
- Establish trails as tourist destinations.
- Provide opportunities for economic growth through the creation of trail-related businesses, such as bike outfitters, trail tours, bike shops, bed and breakfasts, and



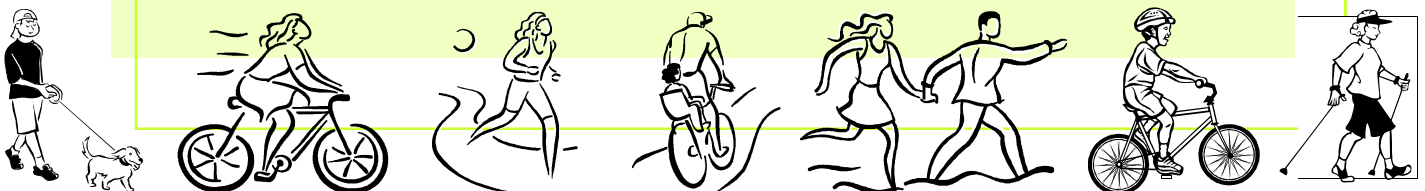
## The Benefits of Alternative Transportation and Trails

### Overview

Relative to a variety of topics including quality of life, sustainable development, urban sprawl, or smart growth; the development of a comprehensive, alternative transportation and trails system has been the center of community discussions.

The City of Elgin is in a position to capitalize on the nation's awareness of the benefits associated with an alternative transportation and trails system.

The Elgin Alternative Transportation and Trail Plan (EATT) offers suggestions for a system that will enhance the community's development, provide routes for community access and recreational activities and preserve natural and cultural assets. A system of trails and alternative transportation options such as, pedestrian crossing, sidewalks and on-street bikeways, creates healthy recreation and transportation opportunities. Elgin's new trail system will provide people of all ages and abilities with attractive, safe and accessible places to bike, hike, jog, as well as many other activities. The City of Elgin will be providing vital services needed for a healthy, economically viable, accessible, and beautiful city.



## Evaluation of Existing Conditions

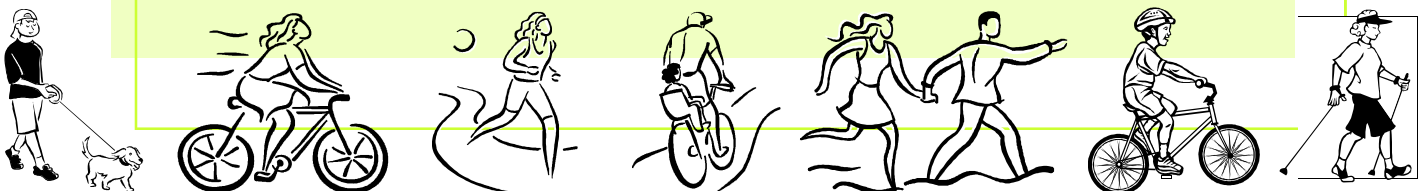
### Destinations and Connectivity

Several natural, cultural and recreational destinations exist within the City of Elgin. The trails and on-street linkages created by the Elgin Alternative Transportation and Trail Plan will connect residential areas with retail areas, neighborhoods with schools and the community to its parks. These pathways will provide safe and pleasant environments for people to commute, exercise or socialize while enjoying the outdoors. Planned properly, on-street linkages and trails create alternative transportation connections in a community and preserve valuable resources.

### Introduction

Founded in 1872 at the convergence of two major rail lines traveling east to west and north to south, Elgin's existence was made manifest due to transportation connections and continues to thrive due to Hwy. 290 and Hwy. 95. Brick manufacturing and agriculture provided the foundation for the community's growth.

Current growth in Elgin continues with joining the Austin Community College District in November 2010. The ACC campus to be built on the west side of Elgin will have a trail connection to Shenandoah Soccer Park & Greenbelt. Future residential and commercial development appears to be targeting the west side of the community. Elgin supports a large commuter population. Local industry includes sausage manufacturing, light industrial, and brick manufacturing. The historic downtown district includes a variety of businesses. Elgin is a Texas Main Street City and a recognized National Main Street Community. Long term plans for Elgin include the possibility of commuter rail to Austin in partnership with Capital Metro.



## Evaluation of Existing Conditions

### Depot Museum

Open Tuesday through Sunday from 2pm to 5pm daily, the museum includes a permanent exhibit about Elgin and its deep roots in rail transportation. Rotating exhibits throughout the year and an extensive photo library and archives room keep the museum fresh for frequent visitors. The Elgin Historical Association operates the museum with volunteers and is supported by local donations. The museum is located in the Union Depot constructed in 1906 as a joint project by the two rail lines at the time. The Depot was restored over a period of several years and stands today as it did over 100 years ago.

### Historic District

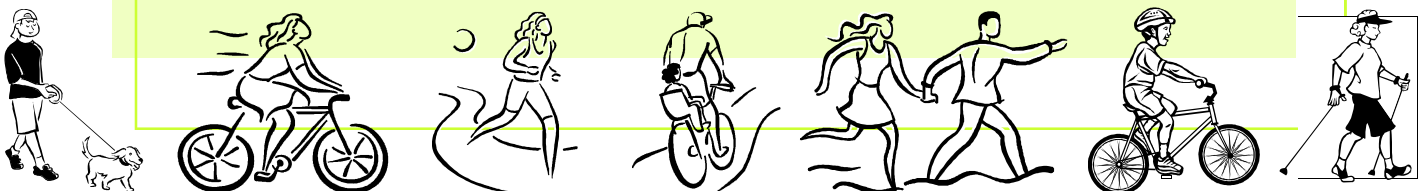
The downtown district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes an outstanding variety of architectural brick craftsmanship. A variety of businesses operate downtown, one example is the City Café, in operation as a restaurant for over 100 years, with recognized great homemade desserts.

### BBQ and the BBQ Trail

Meyers Elgin Smokehouse and Southside Market and Barbeque give Elgin its title Sausage Capital of Texas. The famous sausage lives up to its name. Both restaurants are part of the Barbeque Trail that includes Taylor, Luling, and Lockhart.

### Festivals

Elgin is home to festivals and celebrations throughout the year. The two largest are Western Days (4th Saturday of June) and Hogeye Festival (4th Saturday of October). Additional events include a spring music series, Juneteenth Celebration, Fourth of July parade and fireworks, spring break and summer activities.



## Evaluation of Existing Conditions

### Natural Areas

Wet weather creeks in Shenandoah Soccer Park and Greenbelt, Elgin Memorial Park and Morris Memorial Park provide natural habitat for a variety of creatures from hawks and song birds to opossums, raccoons, and reptiles.

### Major Employers

The following employ large amounts of people in the Elgin area.

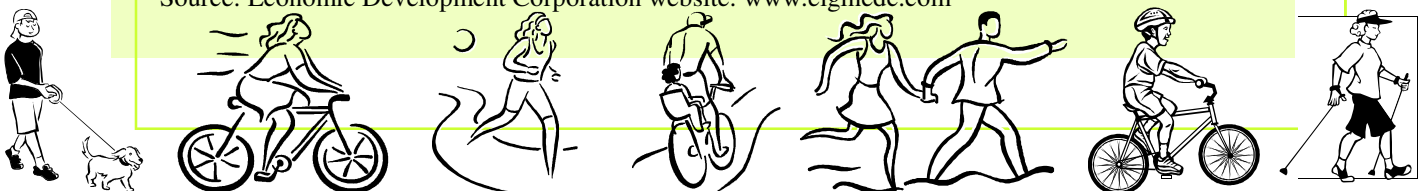
#### BUSINESS NAME

Accurate Elastomer Products  
Acme Brick Company  
Beall's Department Store  
Bentoli AgriNutrition  
City of Elgin  
Elgin Breeding Service  
Elgin Butler  
Elgin Cotton Oil Mill  
Elgin ISD  
Elgin Veterinary Hospital  
Fast Break Tacos  
First National Bank  
Frontier Bank of Texas  
Hanson Brick Company  
HEB Grocery  
IMT (Integrated Manfg Technologies)  
I & R Machining  
Johnson & Sons Manufacturing  
Meyer's Sausage Company  
Prosperity Bank - Elgin  
Silverado Business Systems  
SolMics  
Southside Market & BBQ  
Southwest Stallion Station  
URI Energy, LLC  
Yerico Manufacturing

#### PRODUCT

Rubber Products  
Brick  
Clothing Retail  
Livestock Industry  
Government  
Cattle Semen  
Brick  
Cottonseed Products  
School District  
Veterinary Services  
Food Products & Mgmt  
Financial Services  
Financial Services  
Brick  
Grocery Retail  
Gas Line Products  
Metal Products Mfg.  
Bagging & Weighing Machines  
Food Products & Mgmt.  
Financial Services  
Software Development  
Ceramic ESC Refurbishment  
Food Products & Mgmt.  
Race Horse Breeding  
LED Lighting  
Semiconductor

Source: Economic Development Corporation website: [www.elginedc.com](http://www.elginedc.com)



## Evaluation of Existing Conditions

### Elgin ISD School System

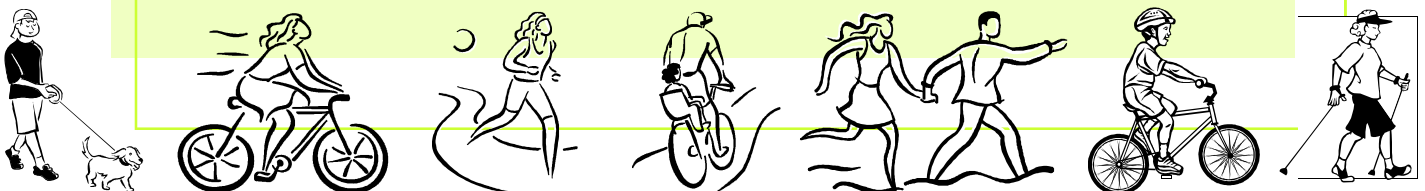
Elgin ISD encompasses 165 square miles in the north section of Bastrop County and portions of eastern Travis County. The district has 3900 students in three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. The district has a variety of recreational amenities and is an active partner with the City in the Safe Routes to School program.

### Current Streets Planning

Future residential development in Elgin should be encouraged to connect to the trails and sidewalks discussed in the trails plan and to develop trails detailed in the plan. Developments should not include cul-de-sacs or dead end streets. Neighborhoods should be designed to connect to existing or future neighborhoods. These connections can be encouraged with dedicated lots, with new sidewalks linking existing sidewalks, with dedicated right of ways creating linkages to other trails, neighborhoods or developments. Alleys provide alternate transportation for neighborhoods and afford connections reducing traffic on the main streets. (Also see Land Use Plan in Comprehensive Plan at [www.elgintx.us](http://www.elgintx.us))

### Parks

See the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for parks information.





## Evaluation of Existing Conditions

### Nearby Communities & Attractions

The following are areas could be connected to by longer alternative transportation routes.

#### Bastrop

Located 17 miles south of Elgin at Hwy. 95 south and Hwy. 71, Bastrop lies on the Lower Colorado River and has a historic downtown district.

#### Bastrop & Buescher State Parks

Parks include hiking trails, golf, swimming pool , camping, lake access, and a variety of amenities. Located 17-23 miles south of Elgin.

#### Coupland

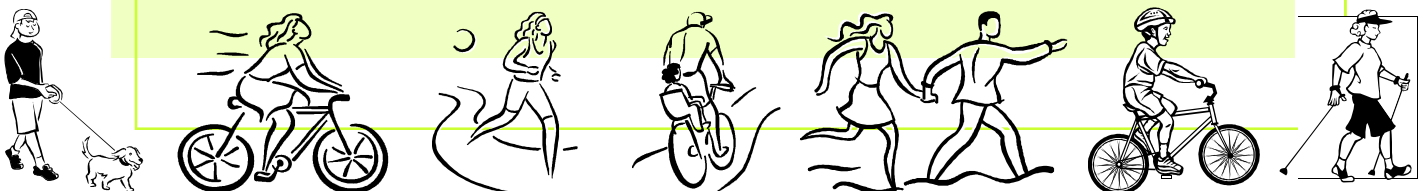
Located nine miles north of Elgin on Hwy. 95 north, Coupland is surrounded by rolling farm land and is home to the famous Coupland Inn Dance Hall.

#### McDade

Located 10 miles east of Elgin on Hwy. 290 McDade hosts the annual Watermelon Festival in July

#### New Sweden

Located north and east of Elgin off Hwy. 290 this is a beautiful area for cycling and includes a historic church.



## Design Guidelines

### Overview

These guidelines follow nationally accepted standards for trail design.

The City of Elgin with its Public Works Department and other sources will determine trail construction and design. This set of guidelines is for trail attributes determined through the planning process and citizen input. Each trail project is unique and will go through a design and review process.

### Trail Attributes

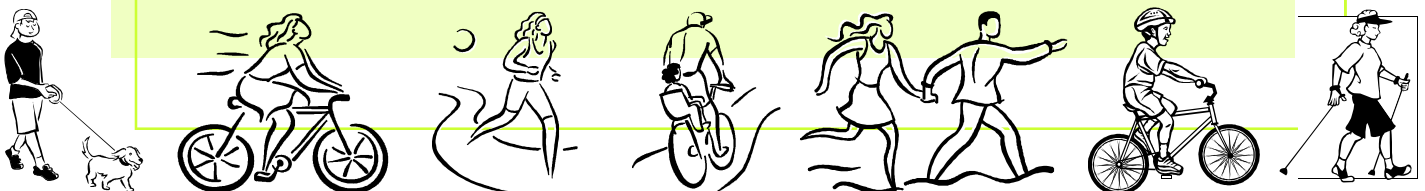
The minimum width for sidewalks will be six feet and paved trails will be eight feet. Natural trails width will be determined by location. Signage at each major trail head will include maps, rules and safety, hours, and trail uses. Benches, landscaping, drinking fountains, bicycle racks and trail lighting are preferences to be included where appropriate. Distance markers if provided are preferred at mile or 1/2 mile increments. Educational and/or cultural, directional signage, and curbs may be used.

### Trail Placement

Speed limits for on-street linkages will be a consideration for bike path placement. Connectivity to major points of interest, grade, safety hazards, population density, road lane size and shoulder size are other trail placement considerations.

### Bike Routes

Painted lanes with symbols and lettering “bikes only” will be placed on shoulders of roads with lanes at a minimum of 12 feet wide. Lanes will be a minimum of 5 feet wide, road shoulders should have at least a width of 4 feet. Any bike hazards will be removed from lanes. Bike routes will appear along with trail maps online and where appropriate.

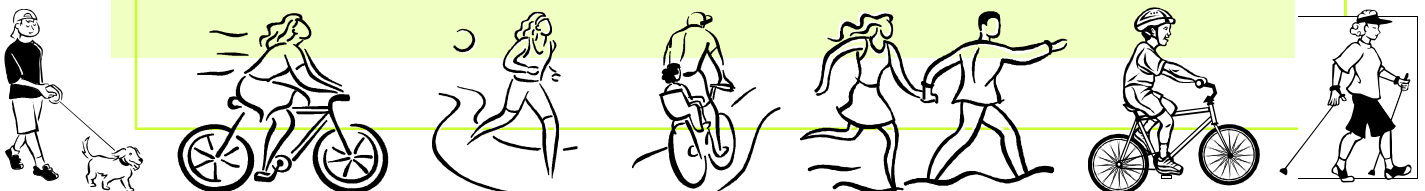


## Description of Proposed Alternative Transportation System (Trails and Greenways)

A recreational trail in the Shenandoah Soccer Park and Greenbelt will connect the park to the Austin Community College Campus, County Line subdivision and Shenandoah subdivision. Concrete walkways will follow a wet weather creek. The scenic area includes a variety of native plant species, birds, insects, lizards, and small animals. The City applied for a Texas Parks & Wildlife Recreational Trails grant in February 2011 for this phase of the trail. Phase two of this recreational trail can be extended along the rear of the Shenandoah neighborhoods, continuing to follow a wet weather creek and would ultimately connect to Hwy. 95 North at Avenue C.

Future trails and connections with the Austin Community College Campus will connect the Shenandoah recreational trail to County Line Road.

A natural trail exists in Elgin Memorial Park. This trail can be improved to be more accessible. It provides a connection between the apartment complex on the north side of the park, the park and Main Street. The natural trail provides an escape from the bustle of even a small town. Trees and shrubbery provide an overhead canopy and a screening of sorts that allows the individual to feel removed from urban surroundings. The trail follows a wet weather creek and provides habitat for a variety of creatures from lizards to birds and insects. The development of a trail from the park to Avenue F could follow the creek.

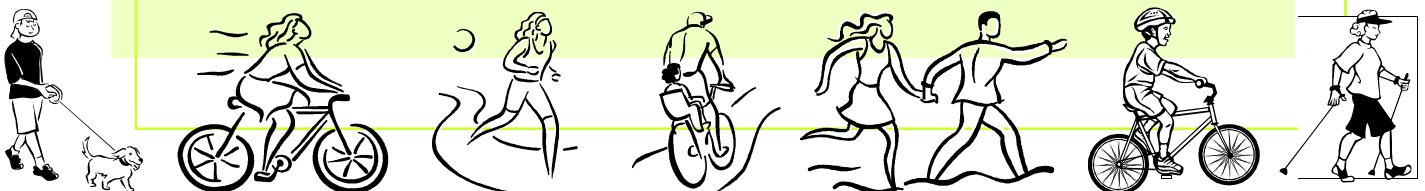


## Description of Proposed Alternative Transportation System (Trails and Greenways)

An existing caliche drive through Elgin Memorial Park provides an alternative connection from Hwy 95 to 11th Street. Pedestrians and cyclists may chose to follow this drive rather than remaining on Main Street. Elgin Memorial Park is heavily wooded affording a great deal of shade during the hottest summer months in Texas.

Thomas Memorial Park, located on the east side of Elgin, includes a crushed granite recreational trail loop around the ball field. This loop trail is approximately ¼ mile. Park areas on the west side would be an are where natural recreational trial could be developed. It could connect to the existing loop trail and through Thomas park property connect to Madison, Hall and Martin Luther King streets. Sidewalks and additional park trail would also connect to the nearby Booker T. Washington Elementary.

Morris Memorial Park located in central Elgin on Avenue C includes a ¼ mile concrete trail. Morris park includes a wet weather creek area providing a connection from Avenue C to Avenue A. Pedestrians can follow Avenue A to 3rd Street, turn on Avenue C and either connect to the historic downtown district or follow Lexington Road to Main or continue west on Avenue C. This existing concrete trail and the proposed recreational trail in the adjacent wet weather creek area provide connections for Elgin Elementary School, North and South campuses, the Elgin Cemetery on 2nd Street, the old High School track and football field, neighborhoods and the Catholic Church. The cemetery is ten acres and includes gravel drives throughout. Pedestrians often use these drives as a loop trail.



## Description of Proposed Alternative Transportation System (Routes and On Street Linkages)

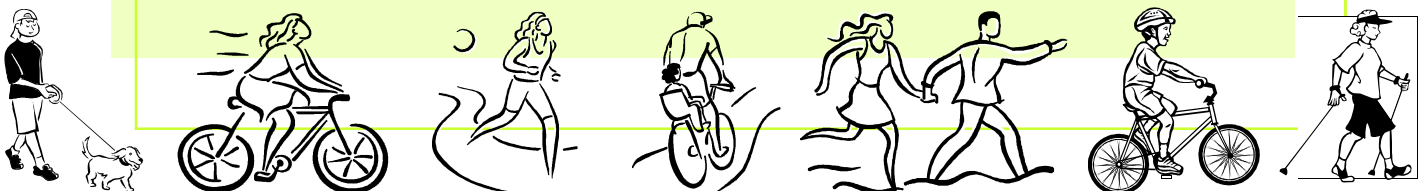


From Hwy. 95 North to Hwy. 290 provide sidewalks on both sides of Main Street. Loop 109 is known as Main Street. It connects the west and east sides of the community. As a major thoroughfare it carries significant traffic throughout the day.

The intersection of Hwy. 95 North and Main Street includes a small street connecting to Avenue C. Avenue C and the Hwy 95 North intersection includes a traffic signal. A pedestrian crossing should be provided at Avenue C intersection to provide a safe signalized crossing for pedestrians and cyclists. Avenue C, (also known as FM 1100) continues west and provides connections to the middle school, high school, Shenandoah Soccer Park and Greenbelt, several neighborhoods, two day care centers, a nursing home and a convenience store.

The Shenandoah Soccer Park and Greenbelt natural trail connects to sidewalks along Avenue C and County Line Road. Future sidewalks, to be constructed in 2011-2013, with funding from Safe Routes to School, provide a connection for the natural trail to neighborhoods and schools.

On the east end of Avenue C before Hwy. 95 North the sidewalks end at Elgin Middle School. Future sidewalks would connect Elgin Middle School to the Hwy. 95 North intersection with Avenue C. This intersection would provide a signalized safe crossing for cyclists and pedestrians.



## Description of Proposed Alternative Transportation System (Routes and On Street Linkages)



### County Line-Avenue C Neighborhoods

Sidewalks on Avenue C and County Line Road constructed with Safe Routes to School funding will connect the nearby schools to the Shenandoah, County Line and Crescent Village neighborhoods. Sidewalks need to be constructed to connect Eagles Landing subdivision to the Elgin High School.

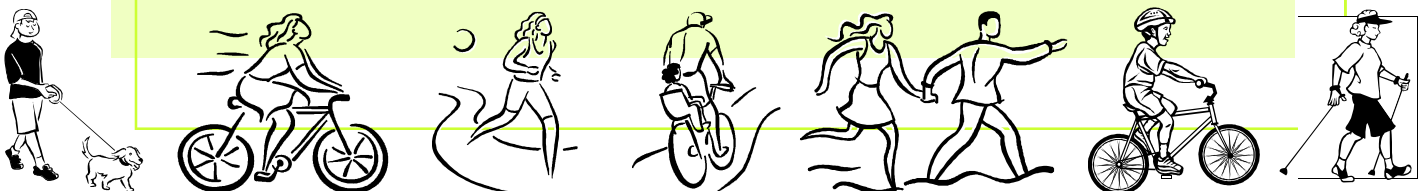
Future development of Lone Willow subdivision next to Neidig elementary will include sidewalks and trail connections.

### Booker T. Washington Elementary Neighborhoods

The neighborhood does not include any sidewalks on Martin Luther King Drive or Madison Street. Thomas Memorial Park is located on Madison Street. Booker T. Washington Elementary School is located on Martin Luther King. Sidewalks need to be constructed on Martin Luther King from Brenham Street to Main Street to connect to downtown and on Martin Luther King to Church Street, along Church Street to FM 1704 which becomes Main Street and affords a connection to downtown. On Madison from Martin Luther King to Brenham Street. Sidewalks should be continued on Martin Luther King from Church Street to Goins Park and Hwy. 95 South.

### Downtown Neighborhoods

The Downtown area has a complete network of safe and accessible sidewalks from the Elgin Public Library on the north end of Main Street to Brenham Street at the south end, and from Avenue C to the Union Pacific railroad tracks. On the west and east sides of the downtown district.



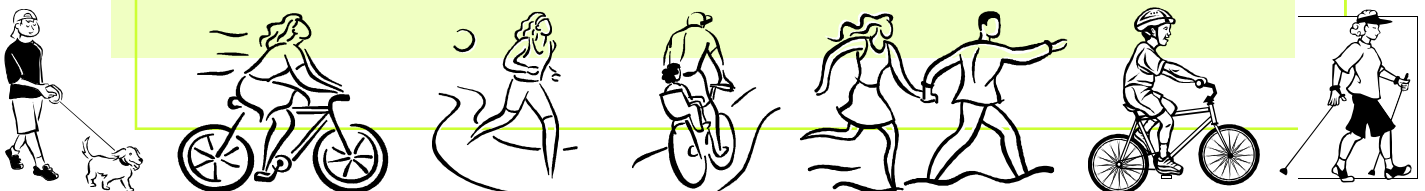
## Funding Sources

### Current Funding

Texas Parks and Wildlife local communities grants for Thomas and Morris Memorial Parks include trail development within those parks. Elgin Memorial Park and Shenandoah trails are natural pathways in need of development. A recreational trails grant with Texas Parks and Wildlife was submitted in Spring 2011 in order to develop the Shenandoah proposed first stage of trails.

### Possible Funding Sources

These sources are listed in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 2011-2021 as well as these trail specific funding opportunities: increase appropriations, connect with street development projects, development of Conservation Zoning areas and park land dedications for trails, grants, Adopt-A-Trail project, corporate and local business sponsors and trail development as well as many other creative ideas that can be found at [www.americantrails.org](http://www.americantrails.org). Educational events for bike safety, trail use and native species can also help to serve as fundraising events for new trail. For community service related trail development see the Adopt-A-Trail portion of this plan and the trail management.



## Funding Sources

### Trail Related Grants

Federal Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21)

<http://www.austincommunityfoundation.org/>

<http://www.orca.state.tx.us/TxDRA/tdraFwHome2.aspx>

<http://www.federalgrantswire.com/outdoor-recreationacquisition-development-and-planning.html>

<http://www.federalgrantswire.com/recreational-trails-program.html>

<http://www.federalgrantswire.com/community-facilities-loans-and-grants.html>

<http://www.federalgrantswire.com/urban-park-and-recreation-recovery-program.html>

<http://www.federalgrantswire.com/watershed-protection-and-flood-prevention.html>

<http://www.americanhiking.org/our-work/national-trails-fund/2009-recipients/>

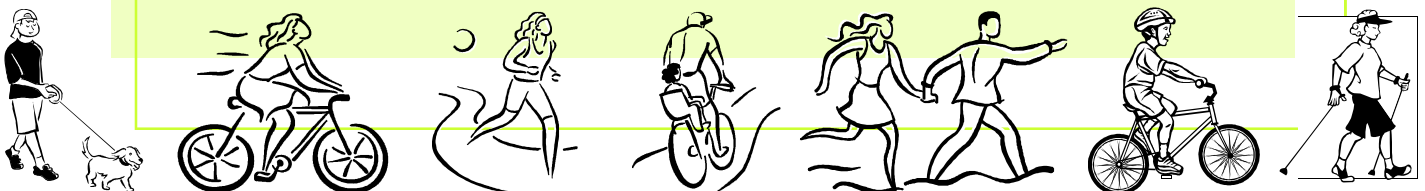
<http://www.americanhiking.org/Our-Work/National-Trails-Fund/Application/>

<http://www.aad.org/public/sun/grants.html>

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/terp/>

<http://www.epa.gov/ogd/index.htm>

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>





## Operations and Management

### Operations

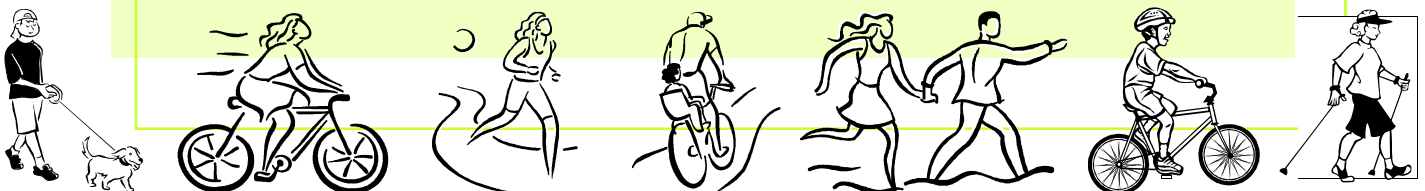
There are several options for trail development maintenance and Operations. Possibilities include local organizations contributing time and labor through an adopt-a-trail program and trail events and educational exhibits, which may generate individual partners who could help by patrolling trails.

Guidelines for trail development will include planting native species and determining trail material (i.e. crushed granite, concrete or natural surfacing).

Trail maintenance, management, and guidelines may be done by the City of Elgin Public Works Department, Parks and Community Development Department or volunteers. Maintenance may be supplemented through Adopt-a-Trail program, public/private partnerships, or sponsorships.

### Management

Suggested trail management considerations: regular inspection, the creation of a trail Emergency Action Plan, records of maintenance performed, fix any maintenance issues as they occur, fencing and vegetation as needed for screening, and a trail naming policy (i.e. cultural, natural areas as appropriate).



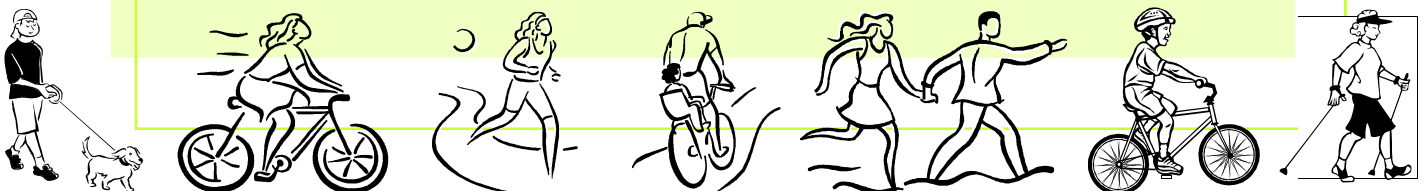
## Safety Considerations and Adopt-A-Trail Program

### Safety and Security Policy/Risk Management

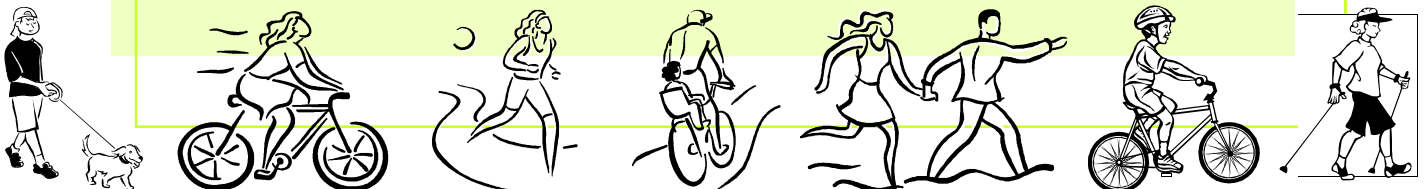
The following are suggested considerations in terms of trail safety: design according to standards, develop a plan, keep trails well maintained, list permitted uses, design to avoid obvious dangers, post safety considerations and trail rules/uses at trail heads, and design considerations to help protect private properties adjacent to trails.

### Adopt-A-Trail Program

In order to encourage participation in a program that will both develop great trails and increase community service opportunities the following guidelines may be used for an adopt-a-trail program in Elgin. Guidelines may include a set time period for trail adoption and maintenance responsibilities, cancellation if no work is done, a designated representative/contact to the city, scheduled communication/meetings with city representatives before work is performed, and signage in recognition of the organization. After a time period of adoption has ended an organization could receive a certificate of appreciation and the option to renew their trail adoption.



## Appendix A: Alternative Transportation and Trails Map



## Appendix B: References

Alexandria, Virginia: National Parks and Recreation Association, 1983.

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City of Fayetteville Parks and Recreation Division. July 2003. Fayetteville Alternative Transportation and Trails Master Plan. Retrieved from: [http:// www.accessfayetteville.org/government/parks\\_and\\_recreation/trails\\_and\\_greenways/trail\\_master\\_plan.cfm](http://www.accessfayetteville.org/government/parks_and_recreation/trails_and_greenways/trail_master_plan.cfm)

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